



March 3, 2009

The Honorable John W. Fonfara, Co-Chair
The Honorable Vickie Orsini Nardello, Co-Chair
Energy and Technology Committee
Room 3900, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: H.B. 6604 -- An Act Concerning Public Access Television Channels

Dear Senator Fonfara & Representative Nardello:

As the Executive Director of Nutmeg TV, I am writing to express a concern to H.B 6604, An Act Concerning Public Access Television Channels.

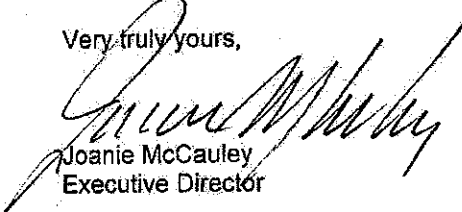
Nutmeg TV serves the eight towns of Avon, Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, Canton, Farmington, New Britain and Plainville. Recently, we began providing all three of our public access channels (Public, Education and Government) to our customers through AT&T U-Verse TV whose differing technology has allowed us greater visibility and distribution **state wide** with U-Verse customers.

We commend the legislature for opening the video market to competition two years ago. Today consumers have a choice and video providers are investing millions in Connecticut to keep competitive and grow their business. Video competition has come to Connecticut and has benefited consumers, as well our state's economy.

I wanted to express concerns regarding a section of the proposed bill. Based upon my experience in working with AT&T to bring the Nutmeg PEG channels to the U-Verse network, I believe that Section 11 which directs the DPUC to open a docket regarding the definition of a "channel", could negatively impact development of new technology and the benefits of that technology. My concern is that if we limit the broad spectrum of what "can be" accomplished we also risk limiting ourselves to new venues that could potentially benefit. As in our case with AT&T we can be viewed across the state of CT. As long as the incumbent has to provide the same or better as written in Section 8 I believe we should leave the exploration and distribution to the video service providers. The existing setup for PEG channels as part of Channel 99 on U-Verse has proven to be very satisfactory to us.

I appreciate your careful review of this section and welcome any questions.

Very truly yours,


Joanie McCauley
Executive Director